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1 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: PSB Planning Panel I (SE Asia)

1. Our concept of a SE Asia paper was transmitted to PSB on 30 April, with specific notation that it was a draft only, and did not necessarily represent CIA approved policy. You will recall I suggested this to all agencies as a method of getting a draft of a consolidated paper out at an early date. The Panel drafts and final papers would, of course, be completely policy cleared.

2. While I do not believe, that at this stage, you will wish to read the entire paper submitted, I do believe you should know of the basic concept on which the paper is based, which I quote:

"A. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Communist domination of Southeast Asia, whether as a consequence of identifiable Chinese Communist aggression or of successful Communist subversion, would:

a. Seriously jeopardize fundamental U. S. and Western security interests in the Far East;

b. Produce adverse psychological and economic effects in Japan and India so serious as to make it extremely difficult for them to resist eventual accommodation to Communism.

2. The military, geographic, and political pre-eminence of Communist China, which has the capability of conquering Southeast Asia through aggression, will provide the strategic shield and psychological impetus for the unrelenting expansion of the cold war in Southeast Asia through:

a. Internal subversion;

b. Military action by indigenous Communist elements

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assisted and logistically supported by Communist China;

c. Political warfare, including the encouragement of extreme nationalist, neutralist, and anti-colonial elements.

3. Therefore, developments in, and concerning China, are governing in the execution of Western courses of action in:

a. Mainland Southeast Asia; and

b. In such areas as India, Malaya, Indonesia, The Philippines, Formosa and Japan, whose security would be seriously threatened by Communist domination of mainland Southeast Asia."

3. You will recognize the point I am trying to get PSB to recognize and I believe it is the most important one in the paper.

4. Defense Department contribution is under preparation now and I am hopeful that a full Panel paper for discussion can be ready in a week.



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